

23
EXCISE



Department of State

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PAGE 01 STATE 229272
ORIGIN NOOS-00

INFO OCT-00 ADS-00 /000 R

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USMISSION USNATO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MADRID IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TOKYO IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE
USINT HAVANA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BEIJING IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 229272

NODIS

E.O. 12065: GDS 8/30/85 (GOODBY, JAMES E.)

TAGS: UR

SUBJECT: (S) SOVIET GROUND UNIT IN CUBA

1. (S - ENTIRE TEXT)

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NODIS REVIEW	
Cat. A - Caption removed: transferred to O/FADRC	
Cat. B - Transferred to O/FADRC with additional access controlled by S/S	
Cat. C - Caption and custody retained by S/S	
Reviewed by:	<i>[Signature]</i>
Date:	15 Feb 1984

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR	
REVIEWED BY <i>J. C. SMITH</i> DATE <i>NOV 3 1984</i>	
CLASSIFICATION EXTENDED	
REASON: <i>NOV 3 1984</i> DATE <i>OADR</i>	
TS AUTH. <i>J. BURKE</i> REASON(S) <i>CDC MEMO</i>	
ENCLOSURE EXISTING MARKINGS <input type="checkbox"/> 5/13/83	
DOC CLASSIFIED/ RELEASEABLE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
PLEASE REMEMBER IN PAR.	
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS <i>B-1</i>	

2. FYI. WE HAVE HAD INCONCLUSIVE EVIDENCE FOR SEVERAL

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YEARS OF THE PRESENCE IN CUBA OF WHAT APPEARED TO BE A SOVIET UNIT OF SOME TYPE.

B-1
A-4
A-5

CONFIRMED THAT THE UNIT IS INDEED SOVIET AND PROBABLY NUMBERS BETWEEN 2,000 AND 3,000 MEN. WE REMAIN UNCERTAIN AS TO ITS MISSION AND THE PRECISE DATE OF ITS PLACEMENT IN CUBA. OUR BEST ESTIMATE IS THAT IT WAS IN CUBA BY AT LEAST 1976. IN ADDITION TO THE "BRIGADE" WE ESTIMATE THAT THERE ARE ABOUT 1,500 - 2,000 SOVIET MILITARY ADVISORY AND TECHNICAL PERSONNEL IN CUBA.

3. WORD OF THE UNIT'S PRESENCE HAS LEAKED TO AVIATION WEEK, AND WE EXPECT IT TO BE PICKED UP RAPIDLY BY THE REST OF THE MEDIA. END FYI.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: ACTION ADDRESSEES SHOULD CONVEY TO THE ALLIES/HOST COUNTRIES AT EARLIEST OPPORTUNITY THE FOLLOWING (FYI - THESE SAME TALKING POINTS HAVE BEEN USED IN BRIEFING THE CONGRESS):

5. -- WE HAVE RECENTLY CONFIRMED THE PRESENCE IN CUBA OF WHAT APPEARS TO BE A SOVIET COMBAT UNIT. THIS IS THE FIRST TIME WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO CONFIRM THE PRESENCE OF A SOVIET GROUND FORCES UNIT ON THE ISLAND.

-- ELEMENTS OF THE UNIT APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN THERE SINCE AT LEAST 1976. WE ESTIMATE THAT IT CONSISTS OF 2,000 TO 3,000 MEN. IN ADDITION, WE ESTIMATE THAT THE SOVIETS MAINTAIN BETWEEN 1,500 AND 2,000

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MILITARY ADVISORY AND TECHNICAL PERSONNEL IN CUBA.

-- AS CURRENTLY CONFIGURED AND SUPPORTED, THE UNIT POSES NO THREAT TO THE U.S.

-- GROUND FORCES PER SE DID NOT FIGURE IN OUR BILATERAL UNDERSTANDINGS WITH THE SOVIETS WHICH WERE DIRECTED TOWARD OFFENSIVE WEAPONS SYSTEMS.

-- NONETHELESS, WE ARE NATURALLY CONCERNED ABOUT THE PRESENCE OF SOVIET COMBAT FORCES IN CUBA.

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-- WE HAVE IN RECENT MONTHS EXPRESSED TO THE SOVIETS OUR CONCERN OVER THE SOVIET/CUBAN MILITARY RELATIONSHIP. ON AUGUST 29 WE INFORMED THE SOVIET CHARGE THAT THE BRIGADE'S PRESENCE WOULD BE AN ADDITIONAL BURDEN ON OUR RELATIONSHIP. WE WILL CONTINUE OUR DISCUSSIONS WITH THEM ON THIS SUBJECT.

-- WE WILL, OF COURSE, CONTINUE TO MONITOR ALL ASPECTS OF SOVIET MILITARY ACTIVITIES IN CUBA TO ENSURE THERE IS NO THREAT TO THE U.S.

6. FOR NATO: YOU MAY TELL THE PERMREPS THAT OPTIONS FOR DEALING WITH PROBLEMS CREATED BY THE SOVIET PRESENCE ARE NOW BEING CONSIDERED BY THE PRESIDENT. WE WILL KEEP USNATO FULLY INFORMED AS DECISIONS ARE MADE.

VANCE

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